



**Minister for Commerce
Minister for Finance
Minister for Industrial Relations
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council**

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New report reveals NSW families hurting under Work Choices

NSW Minister for Industrial Relations, John Della Bosca, said the release of an Upper House Inquiry report into Work Choices today reveals families across the State are hurting under the Howard Government's unfair laws.

"The inquiry heard extensive testimony from families, disadvantaged groups and businesses about the impacts of the Work Choices regime – a regime which is actively supported by Peter Debnam who wants to hand over NSW families to the Commonwealth if elected next year," Mr Della Bosca said.

"The picture that emerged was clear and damning."

In her foreword to the report, Inquiry Chair, Jan Burnswoods, summed up the evidence presented, saying "rarely has a Committee heard such unanimity of criticism and such deep fear for the future".

"The High Court may have found Work Choices to be legally valid, but the court of public opinion is in no doubt these laws are wrong in every other sense," Mr Della Bosca said.

Key findings of the Inquiry are that Work Choices:

- Aims to achieve productivity and employment growth by exploiting the labour of the vulnerable
- Will lead to a profusion of low-pay, poor quality work in an economy characterised by low productivity
- Will exacerbate the skills shortage by removing incentives for employers to invest in training, and
- Will lead to a reduction in workplace safety.

"Women, young people, those living in rural and regional areas, migrants, the disabled and injured workers will all be disproportionately affected, the Inquiry found," Mr Della Bosca said.

"The findings confirm that a deep and widespread climate of intimidation and distress is being caused by these laws.

"Despite the damning body of evidence presented to the Inquiry, State Opposition representatives on the Committee opposed the findings, confirming their active support for Work Choices.

"In contrast, the lemma Government will not ignore the harm being inflicted on NSW families and will continue to do everything in its power to shield them," Mr Della Bosca said.

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To shield NSW families, the lemma Government:

- Will maintain the fair and effective state industrial relations system which one million workers in NSW still benefit from.
- Has passed laws to shield frontline public sector workers like nurses, TAFE teachers and ambulance officers.
- Has introduced a package of laws to protect young workers and injured workers.

"We welcome the Inquiry's report and will continue to pursue every avenue open to us to oppose these unfair and damaging laws," Mr Della Bosca added.

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